

Message Text

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TAGS: ETRD, MTN, FR

SUBJECT: A FRENCH VIEW ON CIEC AND MTN

1. ECON/COM MIN DISCUSSED CIEC AND MTN WITH JEAN RENE BERNARD OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, WHO CHAIRS GOF INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH COORDINATION OF GOF POSITIONS FOR EC AND SITS ON SIMILAR COMMITTEE CONCERNING CIEC ISSUES. BERNARD HAS ALWAYS BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN MTNN ISSUES. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS EMERGING FROM THE DISCUSSION:

2. RE CIEC BERNARD SAID GOF PLANNED TO LIE LOW. IT WOULD COORDINATE ITS VIEW WITH EC BUT DID NOT ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE BEGINNING OF THE DIALOGUE. IT WAS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, TO CREATE THE RIGHT CLIMATE AT THE OUTSET. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE 19 WOULD HAVE THEIR OWN PRIORITIES, BUT HE HOPED THAT DISPUTES OVER AGENDAS AND PROCEDURES COULD BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM. BERNARD NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN TOO BUSY RECENTLY WITH COORDINATION OF GOF POLICY ON EC ISSUES TO GIVE ADEQUATE TIME TO CIEC QUESTIONS.

3. RE MTN BERNARD SAID HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR MINISTERS
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BARRE AND FOURCADE, BUT HE THOUGHT NO SPECIAL SIGNIFI-

CANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THEIR REFERENCES RECENTLY TO THE NEED FOR STABLE EXCHANGE RATES. THIS WAS A CONSISTENT FRENCH POSITION. IT DID NOT MEAN THAT MTN DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE HANDICAPPED, BUT GOF SAW ITS OWN INTEREST AS RELATIVELY MORE IMPORTANT IN THIS AREA THAN DID THE U.S. THEREFORE, GOF WAS NATURALLY WORRIED ABOUT THE POST-JAMAICA EVOLUTION. HE COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DE LA ROSIERE AND YEO AND SAID GOF WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE HELP IT GOT IN SAVING FACE AT RAMBOUILLET.

4. WITH REGARD TO AGRICULTURE, BERNARD AVOIDED DISCUSSION OF THE PROCEDURAL IMPASSE AT GENEVA BUT STRESSED FRENCH AND EC ACCEPTANCE OF THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF GRAIN RESERVES. HE FELT THAT FURTHER PROGRESS COULD BE MADE ON THIS FRONT, AND HE IMPLIED IF THE DISCUSSIONS COULD BE MOVED FROM LONDON TO GENEVA, THIS COULD BE HELPFUL IN THE OVERALL CONTEXT OF AGRICULTURAL DISCUSSIONS. AS FOR 1976, HE SAID GOF HAD CONCLUDED USG WAS IN NO POSITION THIS YEAR TO MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS, SO THAT GOF SAW NO POINT IN MAKING ANY. HE BELIEVED THAT AFTER THE U.S. ELECTIONS, THE MTN COULD BE WRAPPED UP IN SIX MONTHS.

RUSH

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